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Alma 2/17

Ms. Mary Kimbrough
Editor
The Saint Louis Globe Digest
Post Office Box 29393
Saint Louis, Missouri 63126

Dear Mary:

I am very pleased that The Saint Louis Globe Digest wishes to prepare an article on me and am happy to respond.

Attached are some of my thoughts on the issues you raised in your correspondence. I hope this will be useful in supplementing what we talked about in previous interviews, which you are free to draw from for this article.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

Attachment
a/s

The Saint Louis GLOBE DIGEST

William W. Marsden
Publisher

Mary Kimbrough
Editor

314-966-2550

March 9, 1989

ER 89-1210

Judge William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

Thank you so much for your cordial note and for responding to our request for an article.

I am preparing it now and you will be hearing from me within the next week or so. As soon as we receive your comments, corrections or deletions, we will publish it in *The Globe Digest* with great pride.

I hope you had the opportunity to see our issue with Duncan Bauman's picture on the cover. We have had many, many favorable responses to that interview.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Mary Kimbrough

PAO 89-0051

16 February 1989

JUDGE:

The St. Louis Globe Digest is preparing an article on you and submitted some questions for your response.

The speechwriters prepared answers drawn from your comments in past interviews and your public speeches. They are attached for your review.

If the responses meet with your approval, I would ask you to sign the attached letter to Ms. Kimbrough, Editor of the Globe Digest. I have also attached Ms. Kimbrough's letter to my office.

Bill Baker

Attachments:
as stated

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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Editor
The Saint Louis Globe Digest
Post Office Box 29393
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Dear Ms. ^{Mary}Kimbrough:

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I hope this will be useful in supplementing what we talked about in previous interviews, which you are free to draw from for this article.

Has the increase in terrorism throughout the world changed the role of the CIA? Is there anything more our government could be doing to counter terrorism?

Terrorism has been with us for centuries, but its nature has changed in recent years. It has become more intense and more widespread, and its targets have grown. Today, terrorists take advantage of sophisticated weapons and communications. Perhaps even more important, terrorism has become a tool of international politics, as some countries direct or sponsor terrorism as part of their foreign policy.

In February 1986, the Central Intelligence Agency established the Counterterrorist Center to help the United States Government deal with this increased threat. For the first time in the Agency's history, we brought together individuals from all parts of CIA. Within the Center today, we have operations officers, intelligence analysts, scientists, engineers, weapons and explosives experts, and other specialists.

The Center works with other intelligence and law enforcement organizations in the U.S. Government, and we cooperate closely with other countries. We share information, for instance, on names and aliases of suspected terrorists, their travel plans and possible false documentation. It is through continued cooperation, hard work, and vigilance that we can best protect our citizens from terrorism.

My understanding is that the charter prohibits the CIA from operating on U.S. soil. With the arrival of a great many Soviet inspection teams, will this necessitate the involvement of the CIA domestically? Do the FBI, CIA and other intelligence agencies have the resources or the mandate to track the operations of these potential spies?

The United States faces a serious threat to our national security from hostile intelligence services, and particularly from the Soviet intelligence services, the KGB and the GRU. In April 1988, I created a new Counterintelligence Center at the CIA to coordinate our efforts on this difficult problem. The Center analyzes hostile intelligence threats and past espionage cases and works very closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the other intelligence agencies. While the Central Intelligence Agency is responsible for collecting information overseas related to counterintelligence, the FBI is responsible for counterintelligence within the United States, including the presence of Soviet inspectors at U.S. military installations to verify provisions of the INF Treaty.

Is Gorbachev a genuine reformer or a consummate public relations expert seeking some way for the West to rejuvenate the Soviet economy? What is your own view of Gorbachev as a person? Are these genuine changes in the Soviet Union or will it once again become a closed society when he is no longer in power?

You have asked some interesting questions about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev has certainly brought new life and dynamism to Soviet politics and is pushing a series of reforms that none of us could have foreseen five years ago. Although the USSR certainly is not headed toward democracy as we know it, Gorbachev and his colleagues appear to understand that their system is faltering largely because it has not given the people enough breathing room -- room to innovate and room to inquire.

Change is occurring in the area of foreign policy as well. Gorbachev has signaled that he wants the USSR to be a more active and effective player on the world scene. He is more willing than past Soviet leaders to reevaluate the costs and benefits of Soviet foreign policies and make decisions on that basis. The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is a good example of this.

As for Gorbachev's chances for successes, there are some strong reasons to question whether a system designed to centralize authority and maximize government control over its people can become more decentralized and democratic. But if the last three years have taught us anything at all, it is that Gorbachev is a highly skilled politician, and we cannot rule out the possibility that he can, ultimately, succeed in his reform efforts.

What changes in the Agency's relationship with the new 101st Congress do you anticipate? Do you anticipate that the Agency will face budget cuts and, if so, how will that affect its operations?

Do you think President Bush's experience as a former Director of Central Intelligence gives him any special advantages or insights in his current position as Chief Executive?

One of my priorities when I became Director of Central Intelligence in 1987 was to restore trust and confidence in our relationship with the United States Congress. I have met regularly with the chairmen of the House and Senate oversight committees, testified frequently before these committees, and developed clear guidelines for how other Agency employees should deal with Congress in an honest and forthright manner. I trust that our good working relationship will continue in the 101st Congress.

The Central Intelligence Agency, like other agencies of the United States Government, is facing a severe budgetary strain. At the same time, however, we must meet an increased demand for information on the Soviet Union and deal

with greater challenges in such areas as monitoring arms control treaties and fighting drugs and countering terrorism. As our resources become more limited, we will have to examine our programs carefully so that we can meet our current needs and still make room for new ideas and new technological developments.

I am certain that the Central Intelligence Agency and the important work we do will receive strong support from President Bush and the new Administration. President Bush has made it known that, although the Intelligence Community will not participate in making foreign policy -- and it should not -- our intelligence will provide the foundation for such decisions.

Does the CIA have any role in controlling the flow of illicit drugs into the United States? If not, should it be involved in this effort? If so, how?

The Intelligence Community is actively involved in United States counternarcotics efforts. We collect and analyze information on every step in the operation of narcotics production, processing, distribution, and the laundering of profits abroad. This intelligence is used by about 20 different offices and agencies in the United States Government in drug interdiction and enforcement activities, and in efforts to fashion longer-term drug control strategies.

To better respond to intelligence needs in counternarcotics, I have established a counternarcotics center that is headed by a senior CIA official. The center will integrate our intelligence collection and analysis efforts, to ensure that we provide comprehensive and timely intelligence to the nation's policymakers and to other agencies involved in our national effort to fight drugs.

What in your life and experience -- as a boy and youth in St. Louis, as a lawyer and judge -- has been especially helpful in preparing you for this post? How can a young person prepare himself or herself to go into this area of public service? Education? Entry jobs?

How long do you anticipate remaining in government service? Have you made even tentative plans to return to private life or to St. Louis?

Let me be a devil's advocate. Why government service? Why trade a secure position on the judicial bench to serve at the will of the President?

An old friend and colleague of mine, John J. McCloy, said that there are really three kinds of people in public office: those who are elected and serve a specified term; those who are career employees; and those like myself, who are on loan. I have been on loan for about 18 years now, and I've held a variety of positions in government. I can say without reservation that the

opportunity for challenging and important work in public service is unparalleled. I would recommend the experience to anyone -- new graduates, mid-career professionals, and senior managers. At some point I will return to the private sector, but for now I am very much looking forward to serving President Bush and to meeting the intelligence needs of the new Administration.

At the time of your appointment to succeed Director Casey, another newspaper said you "made it clear" that you would "refrain from privatizing foreign policy." Does "privatizing" mean the efforts of individual citizens -- military or civilian -- to play a role in foreign policy by traveling abroad to seek the release of a hostage, for example, or, on a higher level, negotiating with foreign governments? What is your opinion of Jesse Jackson's efforts or of Colonel North's involvement? I realize that in the latter case, the pending trials may prevent you from making a public statement.

I would very much like to make a statement concerning the "privatizing" of foreign policy and the Iran-Contra situation. The investigations into these events demonstrated that they occurred because the conduct of clandestine operations was inadvisably shifted from the Central Intelligence Agency, where we have established rules, procedures, and constraints, to the National Security Council, which has not been organized to carry out such operations.

After my own internal review of the events surrounding Iran-Contra, I determined that the CIA as an institution had performed well -- there was no systemic disrespect for authority, rules, and guidance. But, there had been some violations of Agency rules, and disciplinary actions were taken in several cases. We also made a number of management improvements. We have instituted new guidelines for the internal review of covert operations, new guidelines for CIA employees testifying before Congress, and new guidelines for preparing intelligence assessments without political biases. I believe that these changes have helped to restore confidence both among the general public and within Congress that the Central Intelligence Agency is not making foreign policy, it is operating legally and properly to support our foreign policy.

The Saint Louis GLOBE DIGEST

William W. Marsden
Publisher

Mary Kimbrough
Editor

314-966-2550

Jan. 13, 1989

Mr. William J. Devine
Office of Public Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

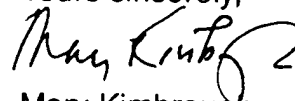
As you suggested, I am enclosing some questions for Judge Webster for the proposed article in *The Saint Louis Globe Digest*. This story will focus primarily on his career in government as director of the FBI and CIA, but we will want to include as background his earlier life and distinguished career in St. Louis. Much of this latter material I obtained through in-depth, personal interviews with Judge Webster when he was selected as *St. Louis Globe-Democrat's* 1980 Man of the Year.

I also enclose the last two issues of *The Saint Louis Globe Digest*. Responding to readers' requests, we have changed our format to accommodate weekly distribution (previously bi-weekly).

I will submit the article to you prior to publication for any comments and final approval.

Please extend to Judge Webster our sincere appreciation for his response to our request. Thank you for your personal attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,


Mary Kimbrough